



# CROSS-BORDER LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT: WEST-FLANDERS (BELGIUM) AND NORD-PAS-DE-CALAIS (FRANCE)

**Veerle Van Eetvelde & Niels Dabaut**

Department of Geography, Ghent University, (Belgium)



# INTRODUCTION

- ▶ **Landscape characterisation** – increased attention since **ELC** ->  
National and Regional examples across Europe
- ▶ Landscape classification and characterisation in Flanders and Belgium
- ▶ How to apply this in a transborder context?

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## Transborder context:

- Different policy and legislation
- Different visions and approaches to landscape
- Data collection and usage are different
- Data coverage for the regions is not coherent

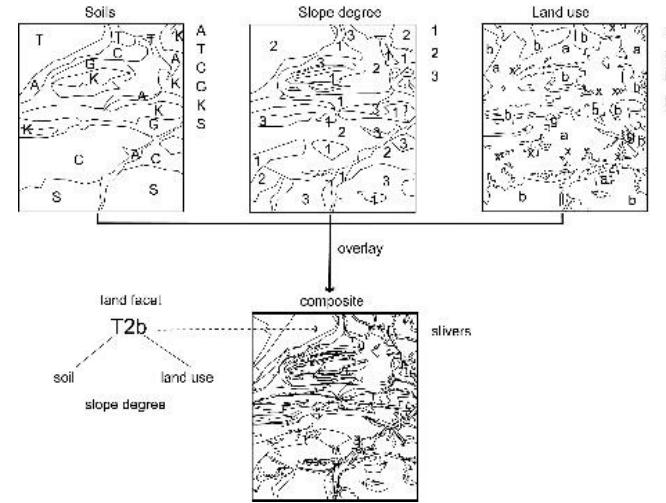
# CHALLENGES AND ISSUES

- ▶ Integration of data sources at **different scale levels** and with **different data quality**
- ▶ Development of a **common language of understanding**
  - Across regions (Flanders, France,...)
  - Across disciplines (Geography, Archaeology, Planning,...)
- ▶ **Visualisation** of the characterisation (maps, interactive viewers,...)
- ▶ Towards strategic and **policy supportive** products
- ▶ Recognisable and **readable for lay people**

# METHODOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

## ► Holistic vs **Parametric** approach:

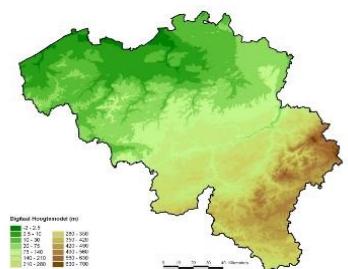
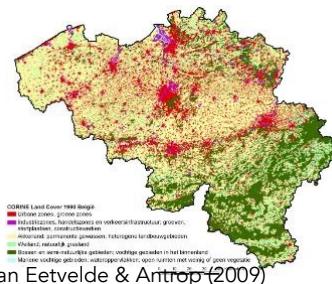
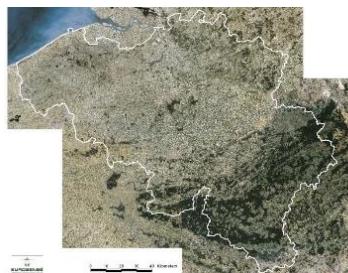
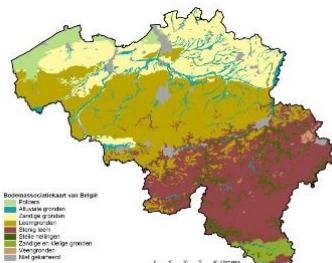
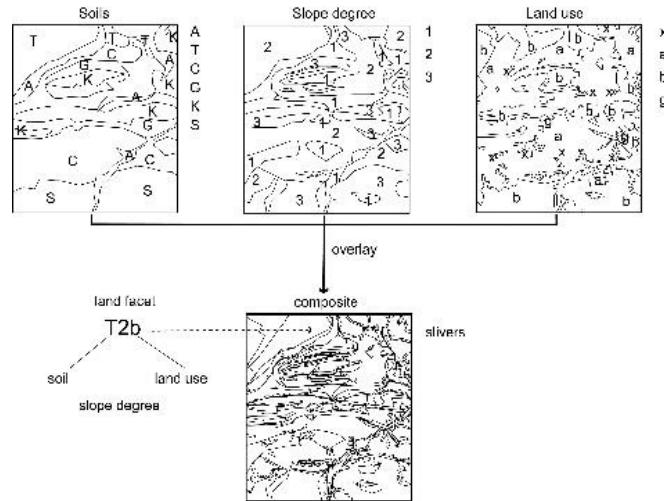
- From details to a synthesis (bottom-up)
- Overlay of **poly-thematic** layers
- Grouping of spatial units
- Quantitative and digital spatial data is required



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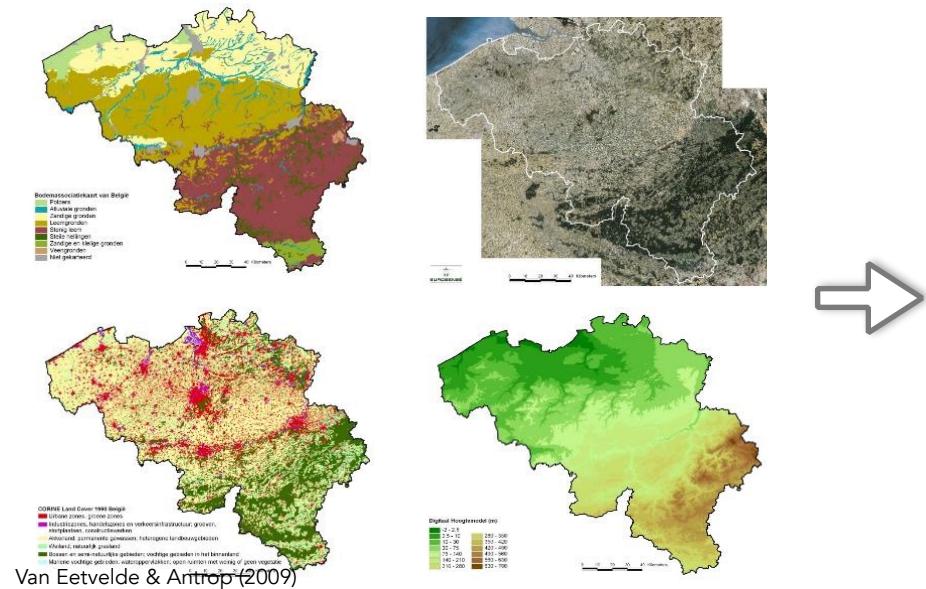
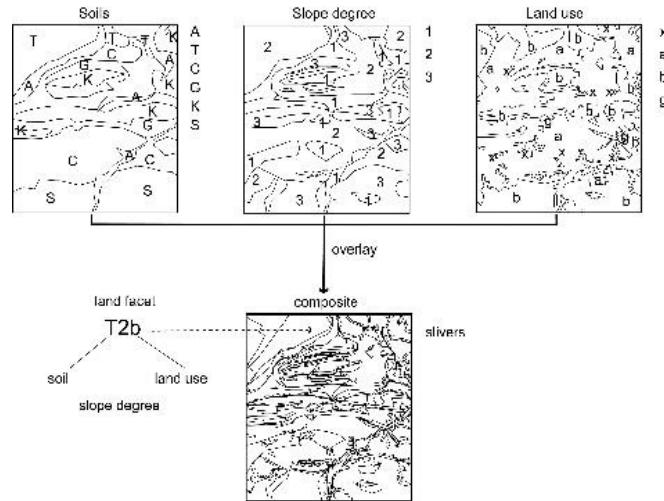


Van Eetvelde & Antrop (2009)

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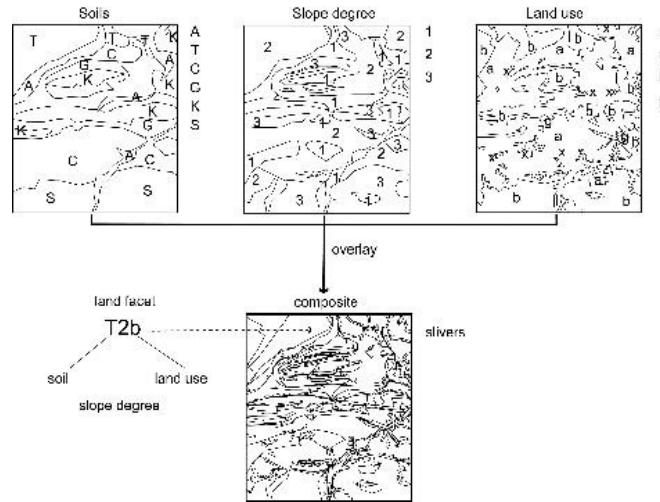
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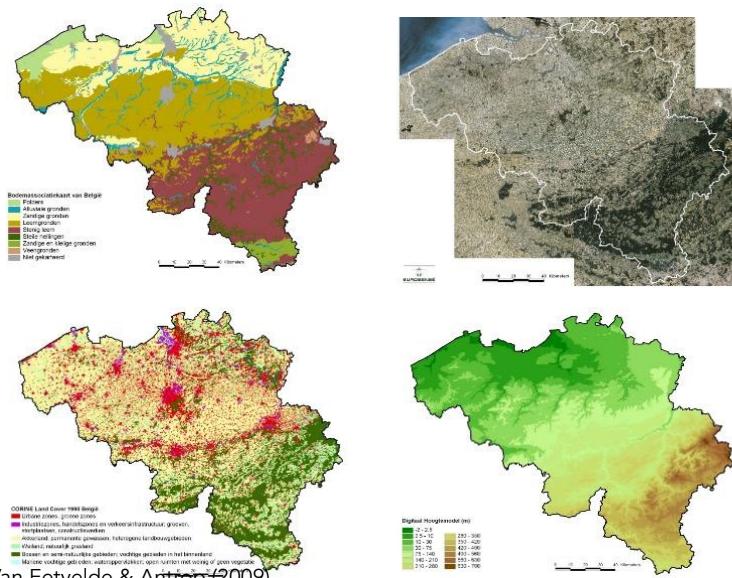
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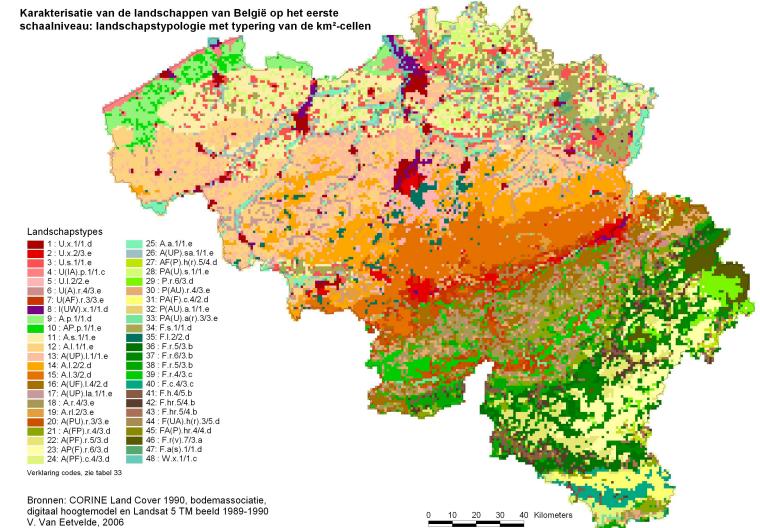
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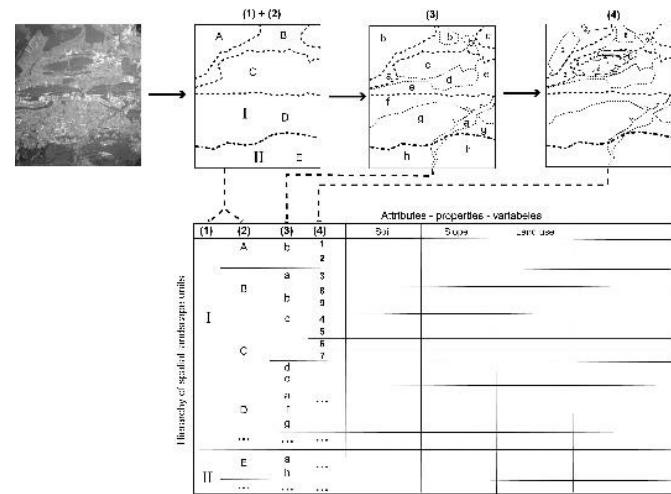
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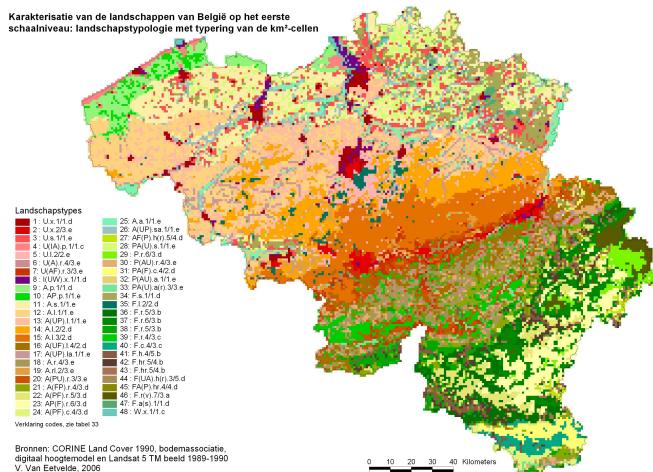
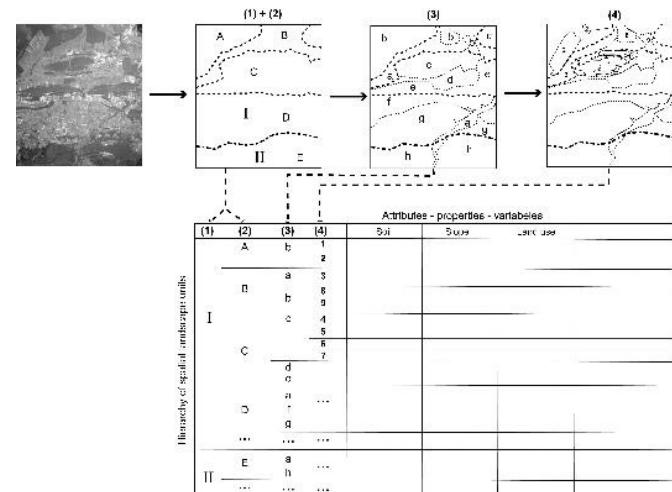
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- **Hierarchical** approach (subdividing)
- Data sources with synoptic view
  - Based on the 'Gestalt'-principles
  - Using different additional thematic data



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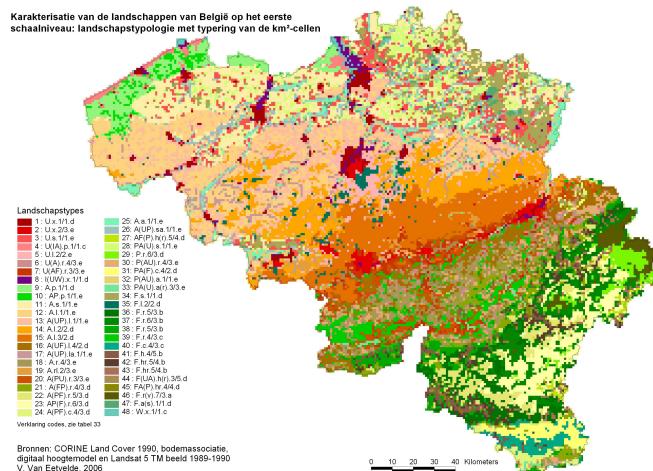
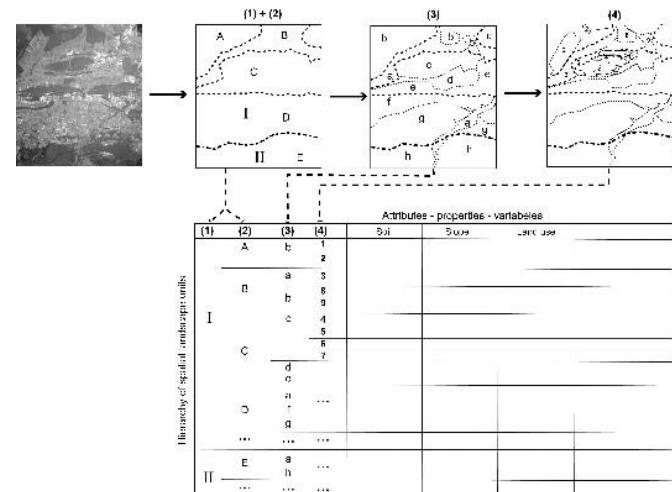


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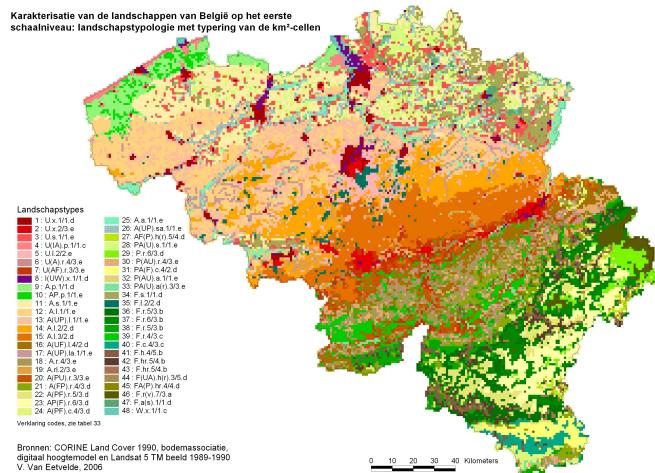
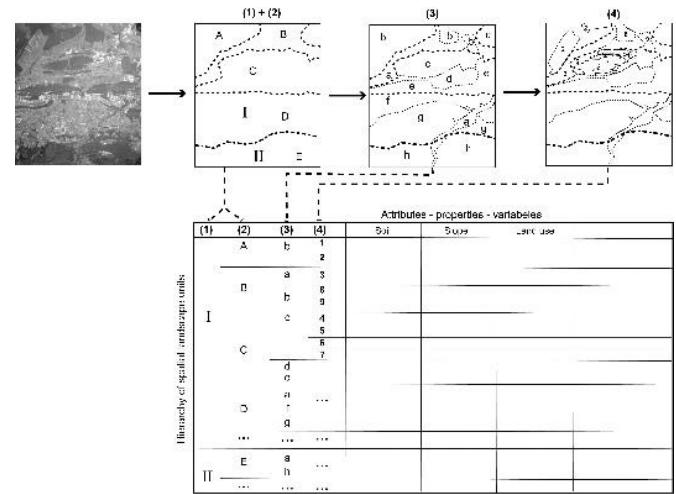
## Interpretation



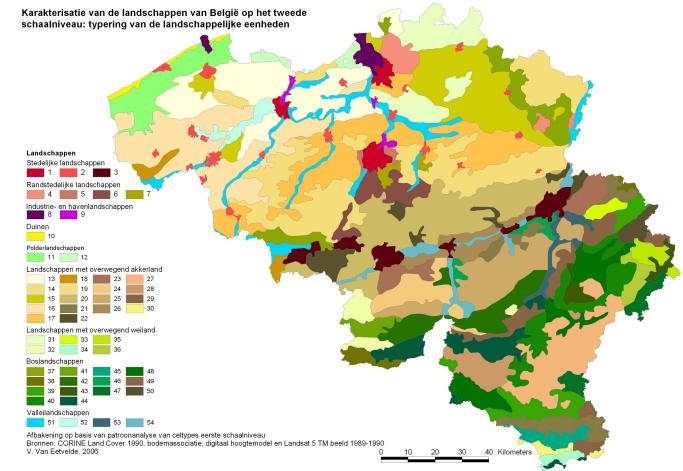
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## Interpretation



# HIERARCHICAL SCALES IN CLASSIFICATION

Land Unit	Characteristics	Scale
site, geotoop	smallest tract of land allowing an description	1/10.000
land facet	unique combination of slope, substrate (soil) and land cover/land use	1/10.000-
land catena	toposequence of land facets	1/50.000
land system	spatial and functional associations of land facet and/or -catenas	1/50.000- 1/100.000
land region	unique spatial and geographical association of land systems	1/100.000-
land provincie	contiguous land regions with a common genesis or history	1/1.000.000
land division	large geographical units based on landform and geology	< 1/1.000.000
land zone	climatic and vegetation zones	

# CASE STUDY PROJECT

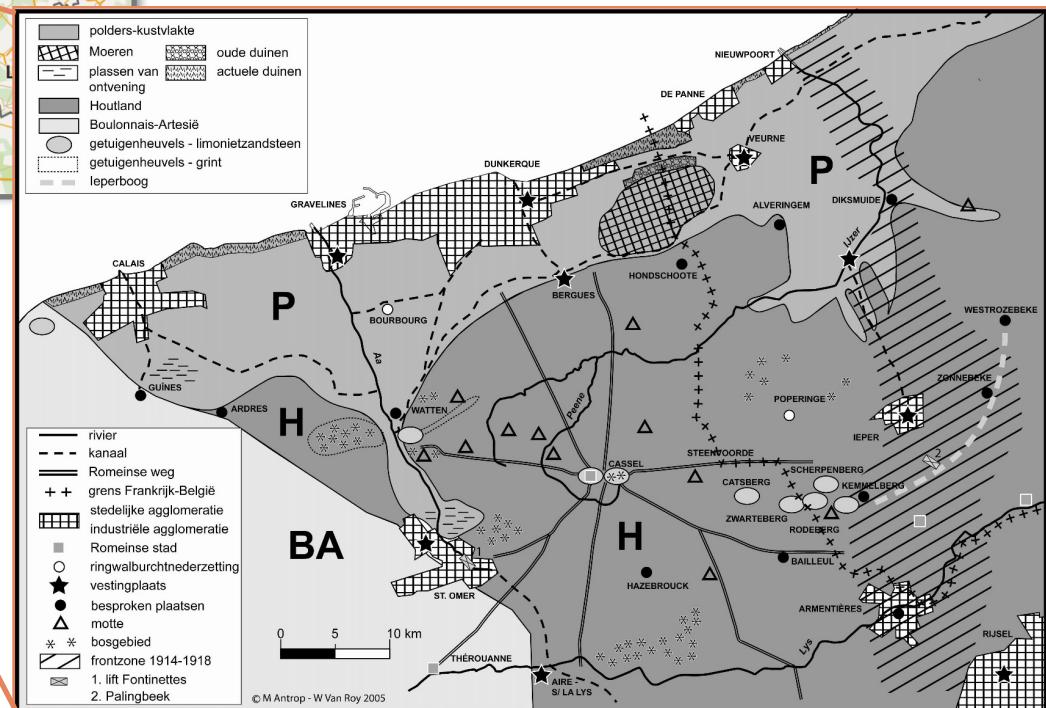
## ► Project:

- **Landscape characterisation** of the cross border area between West-Flanders and the northern part of the Nord-pas-de-Calais Region
- Creating a common understanding in both disciplines and regions
- Development of similar names for specific regions, comprehensible across the borders



## ► Partners:

- Province of West-Flanders,
- Conseil d'architecture, d'urbanisme et de l'environnement du Nord (CAUE)
- Ghent University



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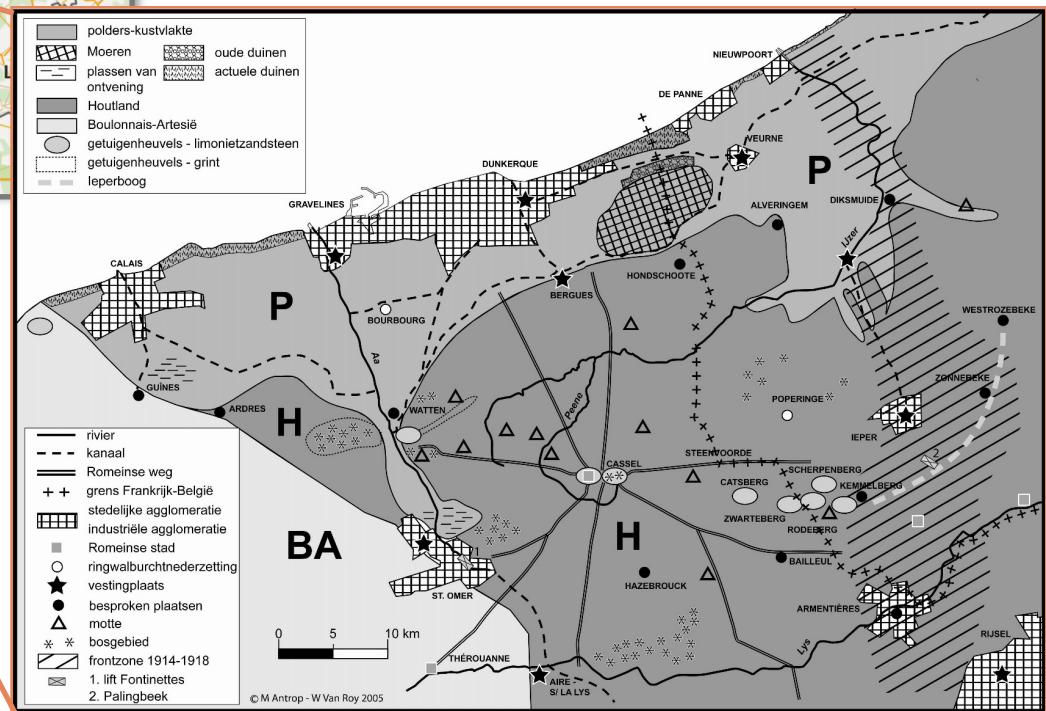
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Google Maps (2015)

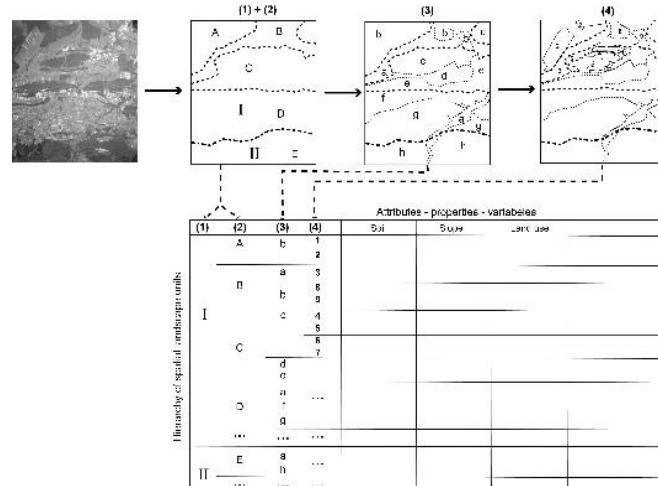
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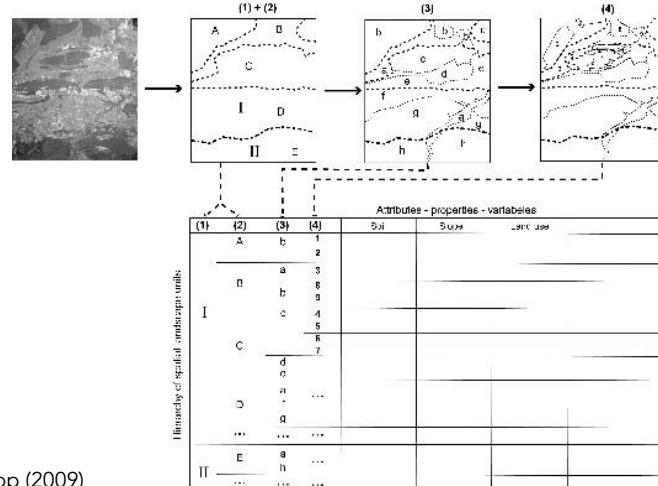
# CASE STUDY APPROACH

- ▶ **Holistic approach** and manual interpretation
- ▶ Defining **hierarchical scales** to define landscape units
- ▶ **Subdividing** the large units into smaller units
- ▶ Describing and analysing landscape units in a **GEO-database**
- ▶ Besides a desktop study a **more detailed field study** to verify the previous steps
- ▶ Adding **characterising pictures** to the different units within the database



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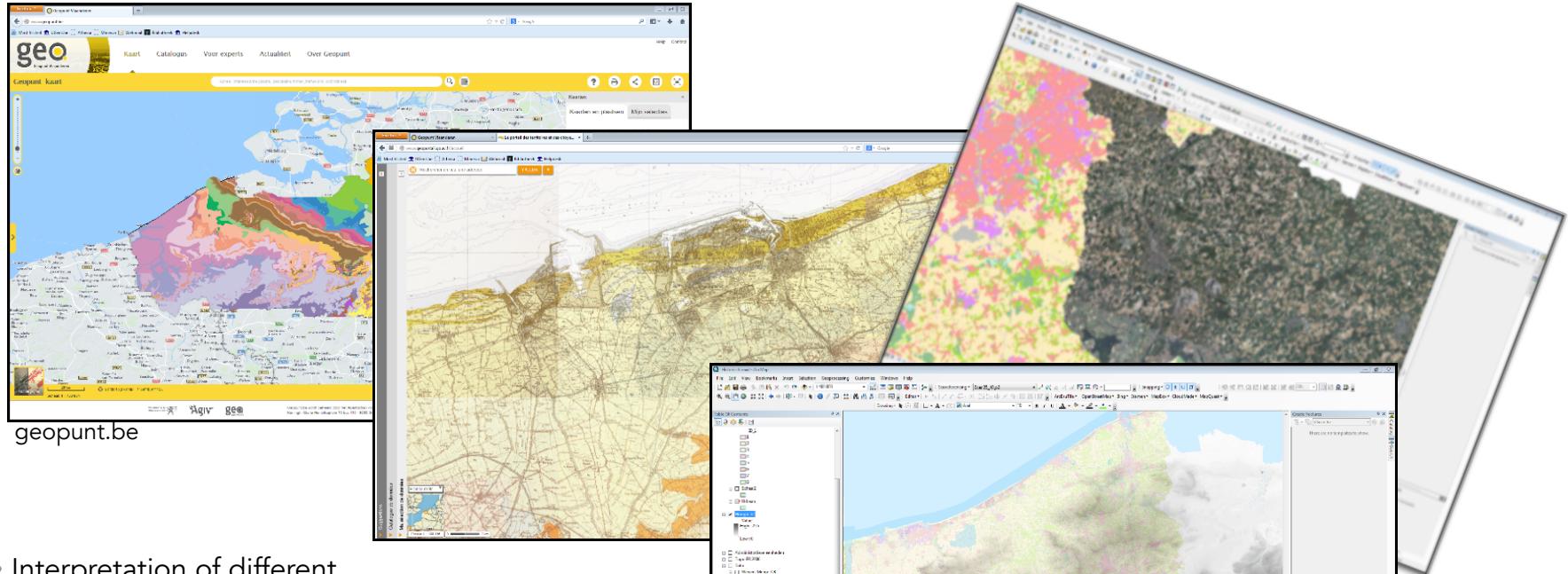


Van Eetvelde & Antrop (2009)

# HIERARCHICAL SCALES AND THEIR ATTRIBUTES

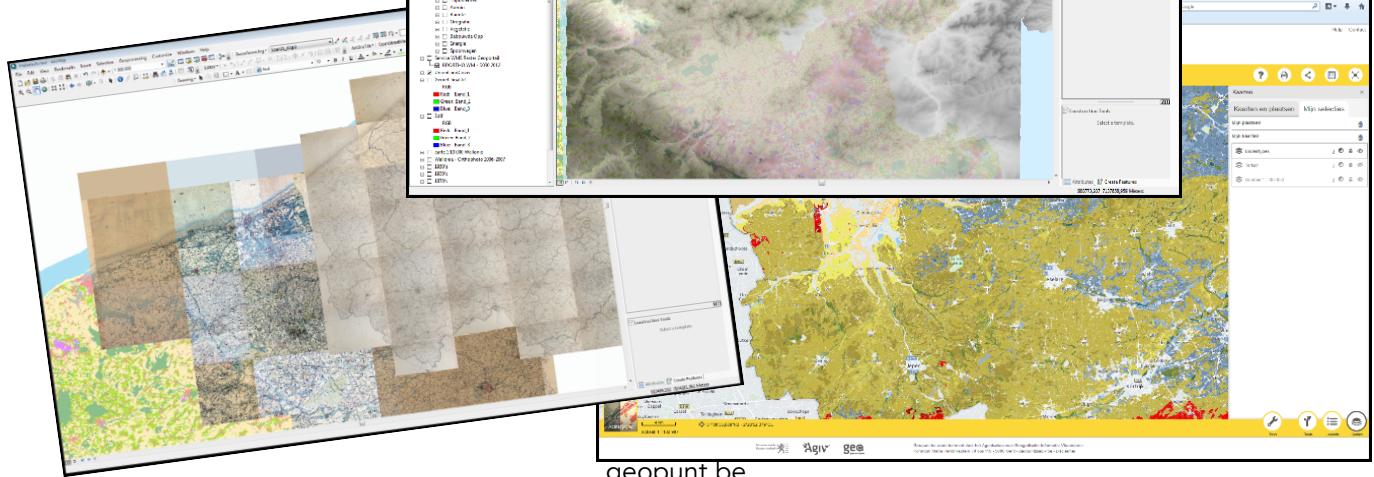
- ▶ **First Scale:** Landscape Region -> Geology, soils, (topography)
- ▶ **Second Scale:** Landscape 'Systems' -> Land cover, land use, cultural history,...
- ▶ **Third Scale:** Landscape Units -> Field structure, visual characteristics

# HOLISTIC INTERPRETATION OF THE LANDSCAPE

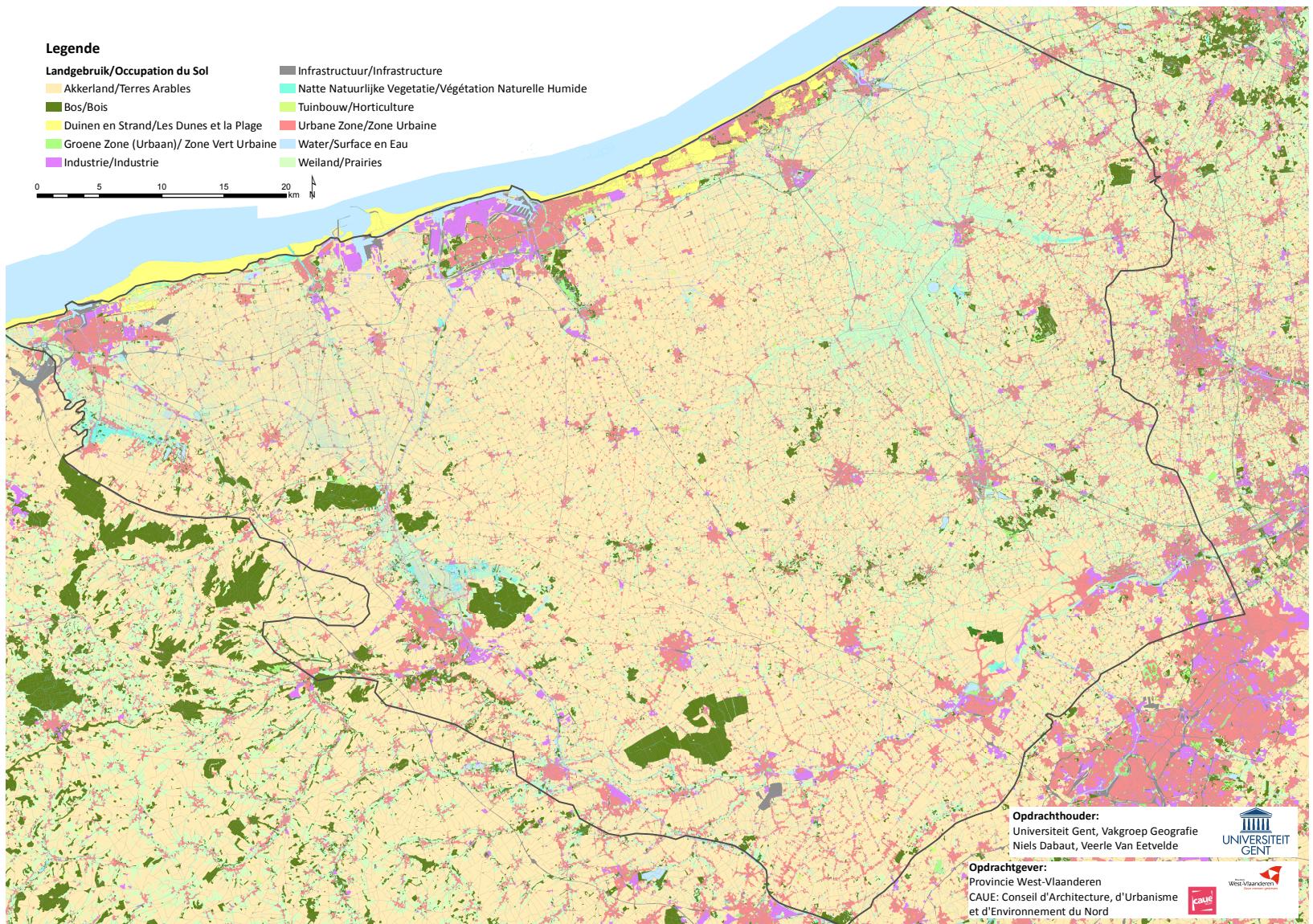


► Interpretation of different maps and Web Viewers:

- Geological Maps
- DTM
- Soil Maps
- Historical Maps
- Aerial Pictures
- Written sources
- ...

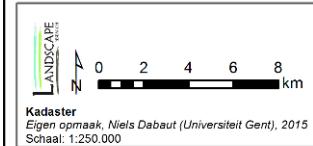


# LANDCOVER, DEFINING A SECOND SCALE

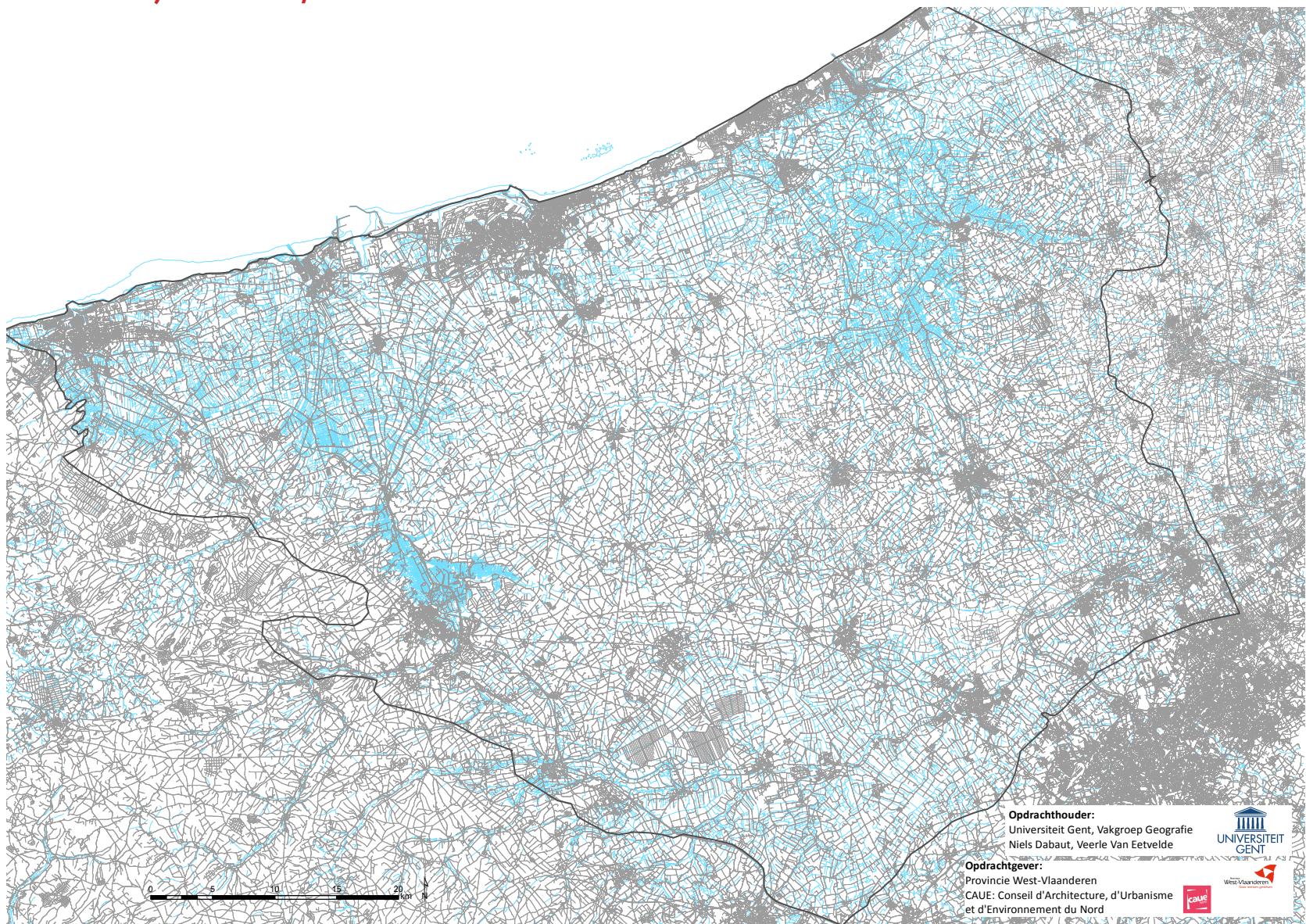


From different legends in both regions to one legend for a project

# CADASTRAL MAP, DEFINING A THIRD SCALE



# (WATER)WAYS, DEFINING A THIRD SCALE

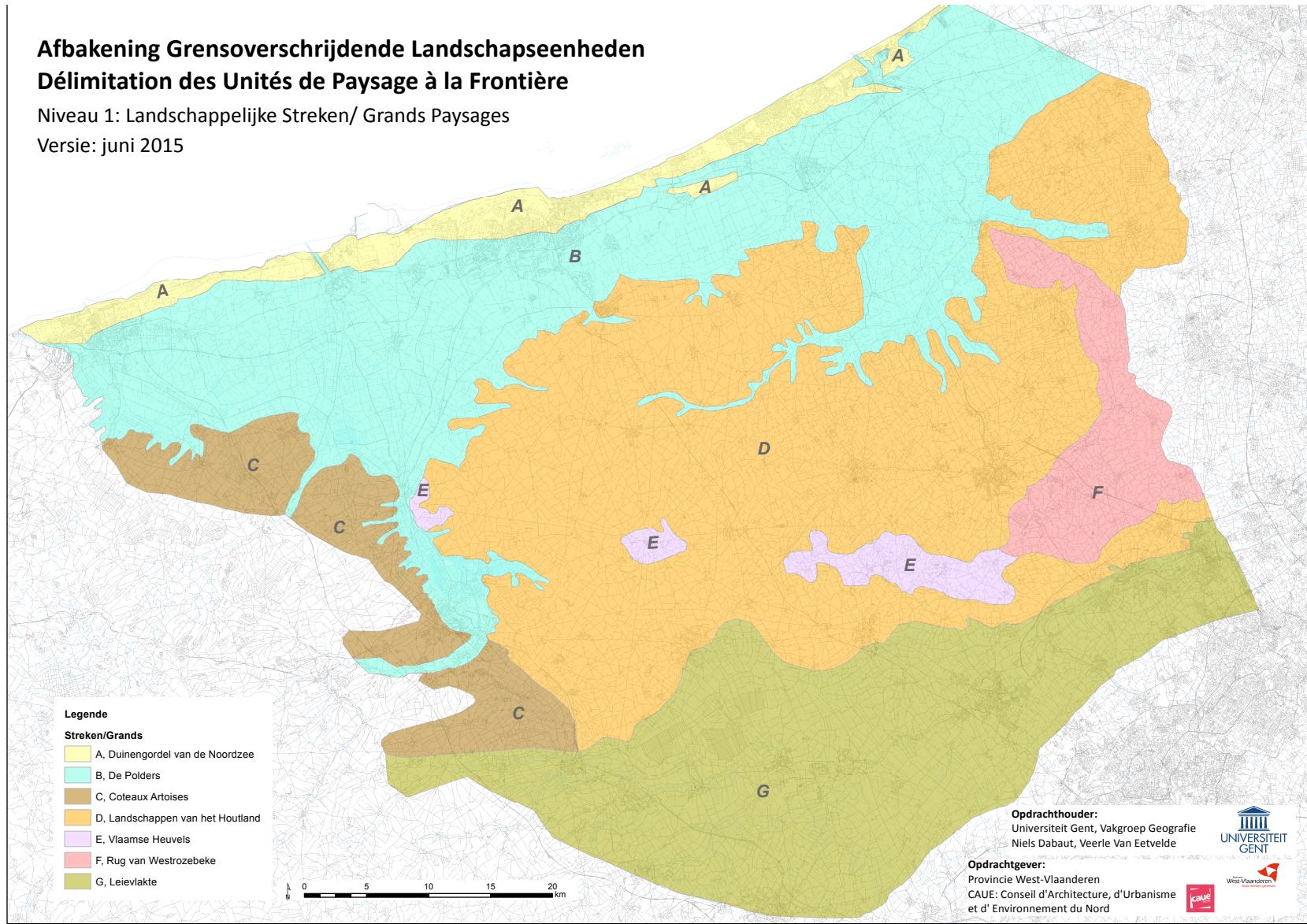


# FIRST SCALE: LANDSCAPE REGIONS

## Afbakening Grensoverschrijdende Landschapseenheden Délimitation des Unités de Paysage à la Frontière

Niveau 1: Landschappelijke Streken/ Grands Paysages

Versie: juni 2015



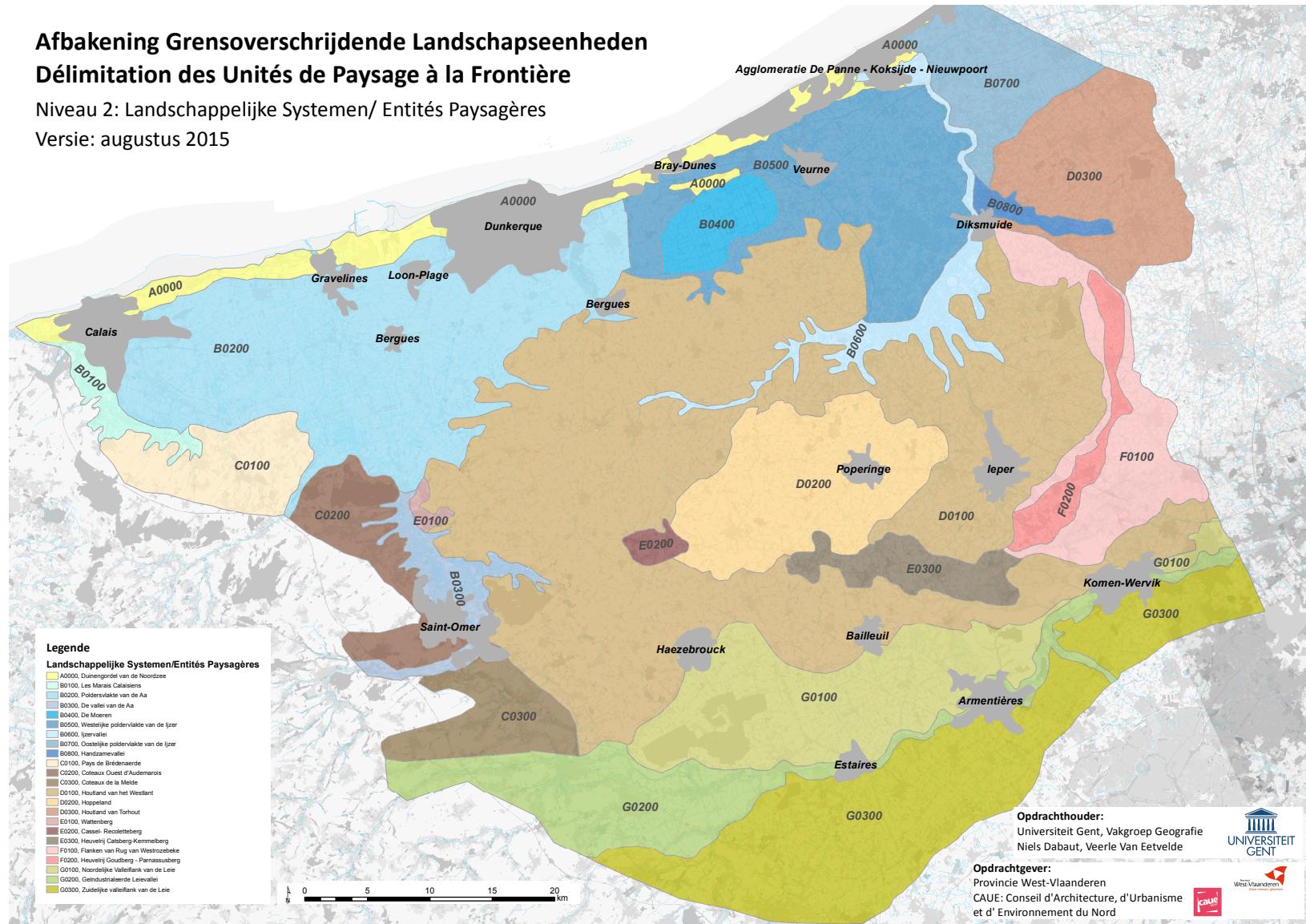
# SECOND SCALE: LANDSCAPE SYSTEMS

Afbakening Grensoverschrijdende Landschapseenheden

Délimitation des Unités de Paysage à la Frontière

Niveau 2: Landschappelijke Systemen/ Entités Paysagères

Versie: augustus 2015



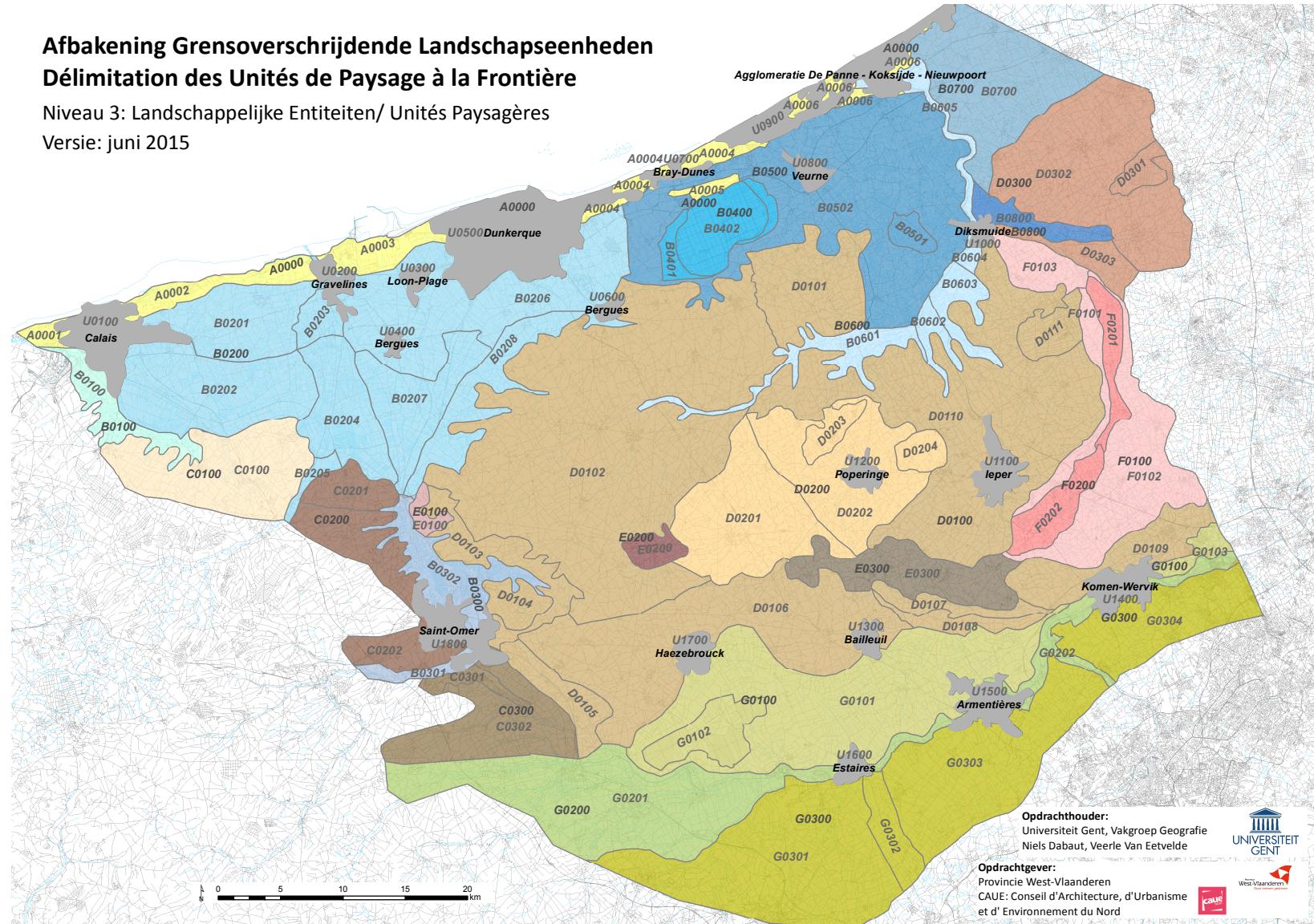
# THIRD SCALE: LANDSCAPE UNITS

Afbakening Grensoverschrijdende Landschapseenheden

Délimitation des Unités de Paysage à la Frontière

Niveau 3: Landschappelijke Entiteiten/ Unités Paysagères

Versie: juni 2015

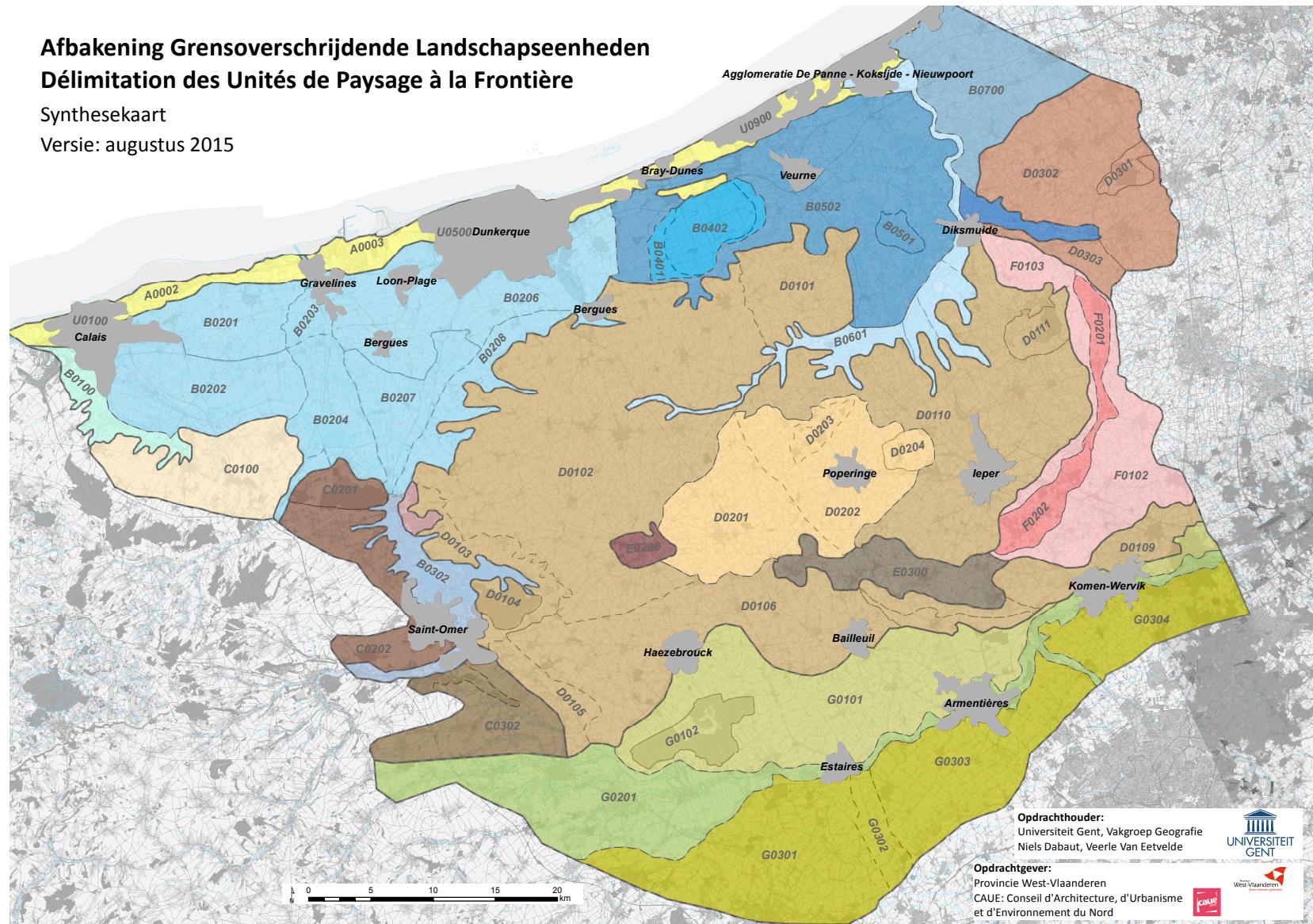


# SYNTHESIS MAP

Afbakening Grenoverschrijdende Landschapseenheden  
Délimitation des Unités de Paysage à la Frontière

Synthesekaart

Versie: augustus 2015



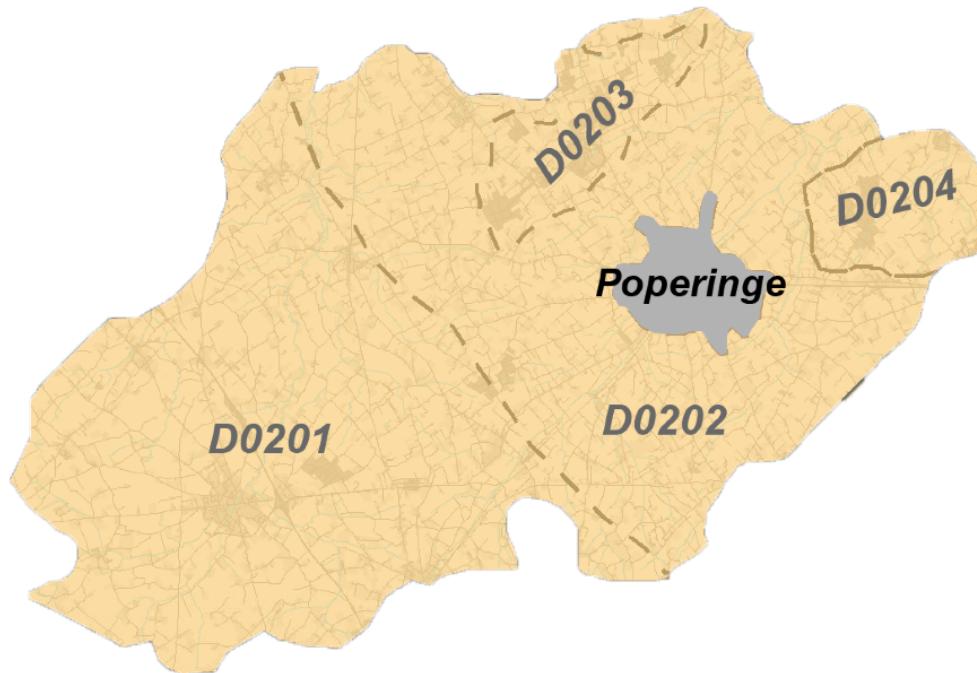
Opdrachthouder:  
Universiteit Gent, Vakgroep Geografie  
Niels Dabaut, Veerle Van Eetvelde



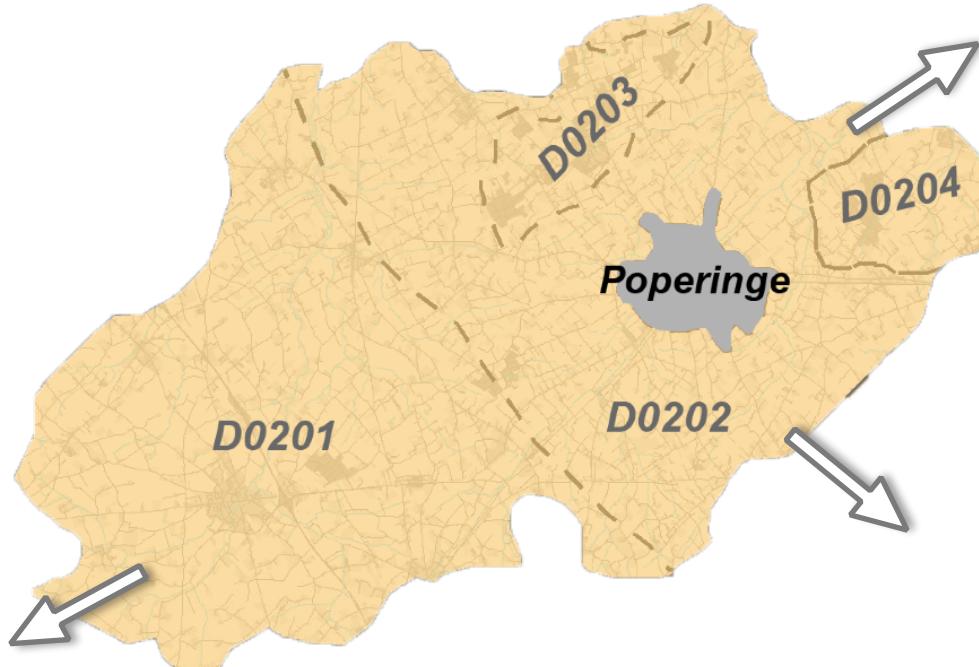
Opdrachtgever:  
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CAUE: Conseil d'Architecture, d'Urbanisme  
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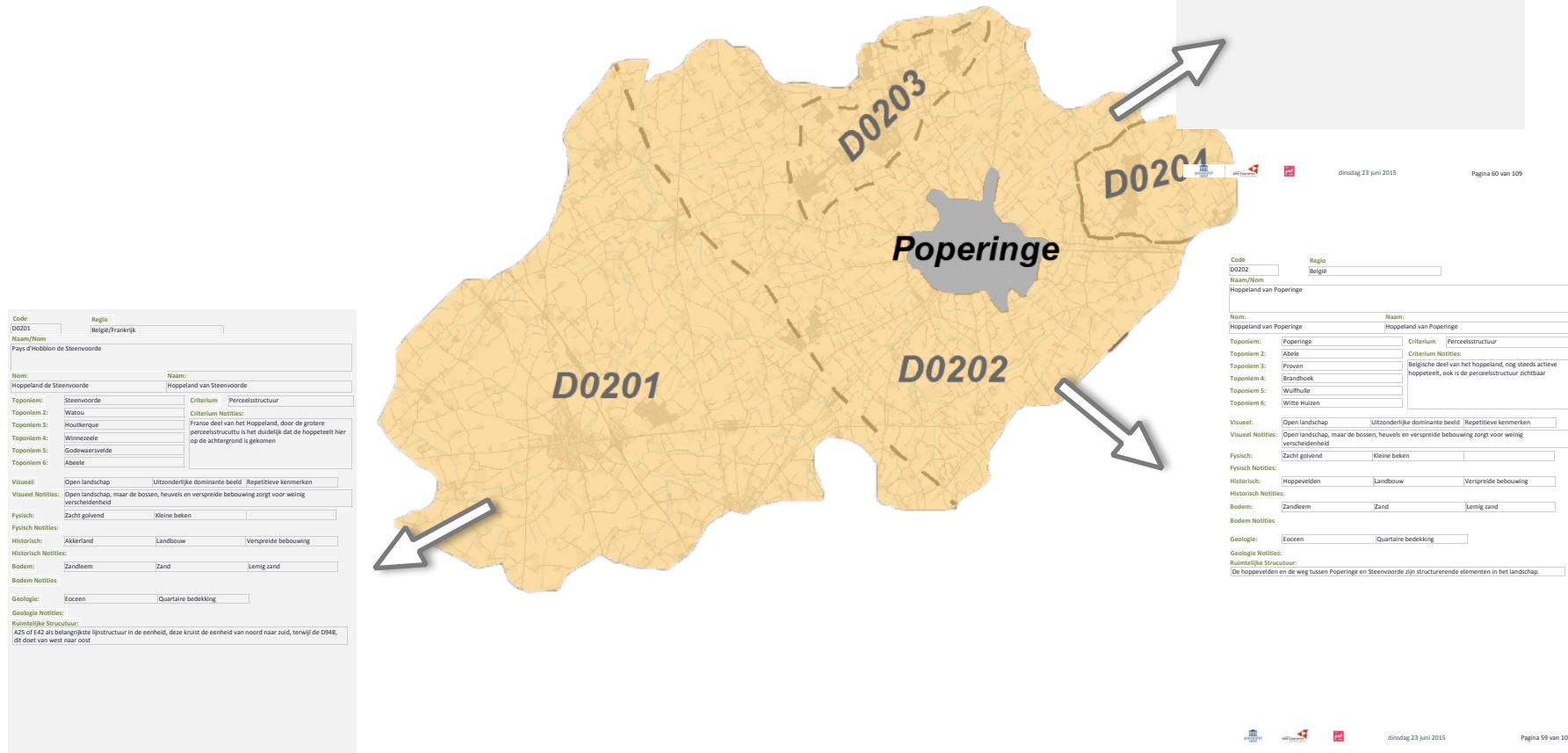
# SYNTHESIS MAP



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# SYNTHESIS MAP

- Description of all units in a GEO database
- Information can be added or adapted anytime and by anyone
- Pictures can be added to the database
- Link with Observatoire Paysagière of the CAUE

The map displays four land units: D0201, D0202, D0203, and the town of Poperinge. Arrows point from detailed data tables to specific areas on the map.

**Detailed Data Tables:**

- D0201 (Steenvoorde):**

Code: D0201	Regio: België/Frankrijk
Naam/Nom: Pays d'Hobbin de Steenvoerde	
Nom: Hopeland van Steenvoerde Naam: Hopeland van Steenvoerde	
Toponiem: Steenvoerde	Criterium: Perceelstructuur
Toponiem: 2: Watou	Criterium Notities: Franse deel van het Hopeland, door de grotere perceelstructuur is het duidelijk dat de hoppeteelt hier op de achtergrond is gekomen
Toponiem: 3: Houtterque	
Toponiem: 4: Winnezele	
Toponiem: 5: Godswaerdevle	
Toponiem: 6: Abeele	
Visueel: Zacht gevonden	Kleine beken
Fysisch: Open landschap	Uitzonderlijke dominante beeld Repetitieve kenmerken
Visueel Notities: Open landschap, maar de bossen, heuvels en verspreide bebouwing zorgt voor weinig verschillendheid	
Fysisch Notities: Akkerland	Landbouw Verspreide bebouwing
Historisch: Zandleem	Zand Lemig zand
Bodem: Zandleem	Zand Lemig zand
Geologie: Eoceen	Quartaire bedekking
Geologie Notities: A25 of E42 als belangrijkste lijnstructuur in de eenheid, deze kruist de eenheid van noord naar zuid, terwijl de D948, dit doet van west naar oost	
Ruimtelijke Structuur:	
- D0203 (Bosken rond Proven):**

Code: D0203	Regio: België
Naam/Nom: Bosken rond Proven	
Nom: Bos auteur de Proven Naam: Bosken rond Proven	
Toponiem: Bardelbos	Criterium: Visueel
Toponiem: 2: Doezingen	Criterium Notities:
Toponiem: 3: De Kijfje	
Toponiem: 4: Sint-Jan ter Bezen	
Toponiem: 5: De Nachtegaal	
Toponiem: 6:	
Visueel: Gedoten	Verstoord door bomen
Visueel Notities:	
Fysisch:	
Fysisch Notities: Historisch: Bosbouw	Ontbossde gebieden rondom
Historisch Notities: Bodem: Zandleem	Zand Lemig zand
Bodem: Zandleem	Zand Lemig zand
Geologie: Eoceen	Quartaire bedekking
Geologie Notities: Ruimtelijke Structuur:	
- Hopeland van Poperinge:**

Code: D0202	Regio: België
Naam/Nom: Hopeland van Poperinge	
Nom: Hopeland van Poperinge Naam: Hopeland van Poperinge	
Toponiem: Poperinge	Criterium: Perceelstructuur
Toponiem: 2: Abele	Criterium Notities:
Toponiem: 3: Frouwen	Belgische deel van het hopeland, nog steeds actieve hoppeteelt, ook is de perceelstructuur zichtbaar
Toponiem: 4: Brandheek	
Toponiem: 5: Wulfhalle	
Toponiem: 6: Witte Huizen	
Visueel: Open landschap	Uitzonderlijke dominante beeld Repetitieve kenmerken
Visueel Notities: Open landschap, maar de bossen, heuvels en verspreide bebouwing zorgt voor weinig verschillendheid	
Fysisch: Zacht gevonden	Kleine beken
Fysisch Notities: Historisch: Hopvelden	Landbouw Verspreide bebouwing
Historisch Notities: Bodem: Zandleem	Zand Lemig zand
Bodem: Zandleem	Zand Lemig zand
Geologie: Eoceen	Quartaire bedekking
Geologie Notities: Ruimtelijke Structuur: De hopvelden en de weg tussen Poperinge en Steenvoerde zijn structurerende elementen in het landschap.	

**Photograph:** A photograph at the bottom shows a hop field with plants growing between wooden stakes.

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# RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPLEMENTATION

- ▶ **Base to formulate future transborder landscape visions**
- ▶ Start to create a **Landscape observatory**
- ▶ Source of knowledge to increase **public awareness**
- ▶ Input for the development of an **open source application**
- ▶ Landscape characterisation as a start for detailed analyses and description (landscape biographies)



## CHeriScape V - Newcastle (UK)

14-15-16 June 2016

**'LANDSCAPE IN IMAGINATION AND THE VIRTUAL FUTURE'**

Information at [www.cheriscape.eu](http://www.cheriscape.eu)



Cultural Heritage Agency of the Netherlands  
Ministry of Education, Culture and  
Science



**NIKU**  
Norwegian Institute for Cultural Heritage Research





# Thank You!



Contact: [niels.dabaut@ugent.be](mailto:niels.dabaut@ugent.be)

Website: [geoweb.ugent.be](http://geoweb.ugent.be)

